

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Gap Tuition Assistance Fund - Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund

Purpose

The Gap Tuition Assistance Fund appropriation provides funding to community colleges for need-based tuition assistance to enable applicants to complete continuing education certificate training programs for in-demand occupations.

Eligibility

Financial need criteria:

- The applicant's family income for the 12 months prior to the date of application.
- The applicant's family size.
- The applicant's county of residence.

Applicants must demonstrate:

- The ability to complete an eligible certificate program.
- The ability to enter a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree program for credit.
- The ability to gain full-time employment.
- The ability to maintain full-time employment over time.

Gap Tuition Assistance cannot be provided to an applicant that is eligible for funding from any other public or private source.

Eligible Costs

Gap Tuition Assistance may be used for tuition, direct training costs, required books and equipment, and fees for industry testing services and background check services.

A portion of the appropriation may also be used by the community colleges to provide direct staff support services, including marketing, outreach, application, interview, and assessment processes. The amount to be used for this purpose is limited to 20.0% of any allocations to the two smallest community colleges, 10.0% to the two largest, and 15.0% to the remaining colleges.

Funding

The Gap Tuition Assistance Program was first funded in FY 2013 with a General Fund appropriation of \$2.0 million. Since 2014, the Program has received annual appropriations of \$2.0 million from the Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund. The appropriations are administered by the Department of Education and allocated to the community colleges using the formula established in statute for the annual General Aid appropriation.

The annual appropriations are not subject to reversion to the State's General Fund. Annual awards for the Gap Program cannot exceed \$2.0 million.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [260I](#)

[281](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapter [25](#)

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More Information

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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